GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:23
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
IMPORT OF SOYA OIL
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of Soya Oil is imported from various countries like Argentina, Brazil and USA;

(b) if so, the quantity of Soya Oil imported during 2001-2002 together with the imported prices of each country;

(c) whether there is likelihood that the imported Soya Oil is extracted from transgenic varieties;

(d) if so, whether genetically modified food is being imported without any risk valuation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) The details of Soya Oil imported from various countries during April 2001 to February 2002 is at Annexure.

(c) to (e) The import of genetically modified products is governed by Rules framed under Environment Protection Act, 1986 which is handled by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Rule 11 of the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, import, export and storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989, notified under EP Act 1986, provides that food stuffs, ingredients in food stuffs and additives including processing aids containing or consisting of genetically engineered organisms or cells, shall not be produced, sold, imported or used except with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC).

Only two cases of import of soya oil have been filed before the GEAC by the Catholic Relief Services and CARE, India. The sample of oil sought to be imported were tested at Centre for DNA Finger Printing and Diagonostics (CDFD), Hyderabad, as per directions of GEAC. The CDFD reported that the samples do not contain either DNA or proteins. There after GEAC accorded clearance of the consignments.

Annexure

Soya bean crude oil (Quantity in Mts Value in Rs. crore)

Country	Quantity	Value
Argentina	741418.98	1250.15
Baharian Is	1500	2.17
Brazil	303028.45	488.1
Indonesia	4650.38	7.4
Malaysia	9324.71	17.68
Netherland	1750	2.89
Singapore	250	0.36
South Africa	2000	2.94
Thailand	1379	2.45
USA	13572.87	22.65
Unspecified	2000	3.19

Other soya bean oil & its fractions

Country	Quantity	Value
Argentina	145978.73	231.90
Brazil	45617.89	77.85
Denmark	53.3	0.12
German F Rep	48.9	0.14
Indonesia	1000.28	1.22
South Africa	4000	5.93
UAE	750	1.26
USA	5865.33	21.98